



TESTIMONY TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON RAISED BILL S.B. 948, AN ACT ADDRESSING EDUCATION FUNDING AND RACIAL EQUITY

Rev. Daylan K. Greer, Sr., Pastor, Bethel AME Church, Bloomfield, CT and
Vice President of the Greater Hartford Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance

March 3, 2021

Co-Chairs Senator McCrory and Representative Sanchez, Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative McCarty, and distinguished members of the Education Committee:

My name is the Rev. Daylan Greer, Pastor of Bethel AME Church in Bloomfield, Vice President of the Greater Hartford Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, and member of FaithActs for Education.

When you think about what inequity looks like in this state you don't have to go all the way down to Fairfield county. In fact, you don't have to look much further than the Capitol building. In Hartford where many of my parishioners reside, the average household income is \$36,000. In Bloomfield it's over \$73,000 and in West Hartford it's over \$104,000. In a four mile radius, you can see income is doubled or even tripled based on your zip code.

Connecticut has one of the largest wealth gaps in the country. And when we fund our schools through property taxes, it also means we have one of the largest opportunity gaps. But it doesn't have to be this way.

That's why I am honored to speak today in support of SB 948, a solution to end discrimination in education funding that will ultimately help us close the income gap plaguing our state.

In its simplest terms, this bill will:

- **Open the door to opportunity for kids in poverty:** a door that for too long has been sealed shut in the faces of low-income Black and Brown children across our state.
- **Drive resources English Language Learners:** so that language, rather than a barrier, is an asset to learning.
- **Fairly fund students in all public schools:** Regardless of the type of public school they go to and without taking money from traditional public schools.
- **Bring Education Justice to Black, Brown and low-income children Now:** Not in 10 years, but now! As it stands today, a 2nd grader won't see her full funding until she's in high school.

Please pass SB 948.

Thank you.